

JEANNETTE GLASS COMPANY
(Jeannette Bottle Works)
Chambers Avenue Extension on
Brush Creek
Jeannette
Westmoreland
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-285

HAER
PA
65-JEAN,
78-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

JEANNETTE GLASS COMPANY
(Jeannette Bottle Works)

HAER No. PA-285

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Location: Chambers Avenue Extension, on Brush Creek, Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

Date of Construction: 1898

Builder: unknown

Present Owner: Abraham Zion

Present Use: demolished

Significance: One of several glass factories built in Jeannette, Pennsylvania during the early years of the natural gas boom, the Jeannette Glass Company (originally called the Jeannette Bottle Works) produced hand-blown bottles and flint glass novelties. With the installation of automatic glass blowing equipment, the firm developed new products including sidewalk glass and prism tile for store fronts, as well as depression glassware in the 1930s. After acquisition by Cleveland industrialist Maurice Stonehill in 1960, the plant was closed and the equipment moved to the nearby McKee Glass Works. Rowhouses were constructed for workers in the shadow of the factory.

Project Information: In February, 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HAER undertook a comprehensive inventory of Westmoreland County to identify the region's surviving historic engineering works and industrial resources.

Compiler: Gray Fitzsimons and Kenneth Rose, Editors

DESCRIPTION: While this site has recently been razed, at the time of the survey the following structures were extant: Manufacturing Building No. 1: red brick, common bond and corrugated metal; three stories; triple gable roof with thirteen ventilators across each of two roofs, four ventilators on third roof, and tall brick chimney on second roof; steel trusses and steel structural system; multipaned casement windows; additions attached to this main structure includes a tall reinforced concrete storage building. Manufacturing Building No. 2: red brick, common bond; two stories; gable roof with metal monitor and tall brick chimney; "Jeannette Glass" in white tile; steel trusses and structural system; interior kiln and machinery can be seen through broken windows; tile, concrete block, and brick additions to both sides. Storage: red brick, common bond; one story. Mold Cleaning and Engine Room: red brick, common bond; two stories; flat roof; hinged windows; arched windows with brick voussoirs; exterior brick piers and corbelling at cornice. Carton Storage and Shipping: located on railroad; red brick, common bond; two stories; arched windows with single and double voussoirs. Old Carton Storage Building: attached to Building No. 1; burned in 1988 and left only exterior brick walls; red brick, common bond; one story; single, double and triple voussoirs over arched windows. The entire factory was demolished in 1992.

Adjacent to the east facade of the Jeannette Glass Company on Chambers Avenue is a single row of workers' housing constructed ca. 1920. Rowhouses: red brick, stretcher bond; two stories; flat roof has brick parapet with geometric brickwork and corbelling at cornice; concrete block foundation; three-over-one-light double-hung windows with soldier course for lintel and concrete sills; front porches share a common roof with brick columns as support posts; a single roof extends across the rear facade to cover back porches; modifications include enclosed rear porches and minor alterations in fenestration.

HISTORY: The Jeannette Glass Company was incorporated in 1898. Originally called the Jeannette Bottle Works, this firm made hand-blown glass bottles and flint glass tableware that have since become collectors' items. With the introduction of automated bottle-blowing and glass making equipment the firm developed new products, including sidewalk glass and prism tile for store fronts, as well as "depression glassware" in the 1930s. Products made by the Jeannette Glass Company were sold throughout the United States and ninety foreign countries. Maurice L. Stonehill, a Cleveland industrialist, acquired the Jeannette Glass Company in 1960 and merged it with the McKee Glass Company in 1962. Forming the Jeannette Glass Company, he closed the Chambers Avenue plant and merged all production into the Bullit Avenue plant of the former McKee Glass Company. The firm employed 243 workers in 1916, 226 workers in 1919, 394 workers in 1935, 588 workers in 1947 and 300 workers in 1960. The Jeannette Glass Company became the Jeannette Corporation in 1971, and in 1989 American Architectural Metals Inc. of New York acquired the Jeannette Glass factory site.

Sources:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry. Eighth Industrial Directory of Pennsylvania, 1935. Harrisburg: State Printer, 1935.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry. Twelfth Industrial Directory of Pennsylvania, 1947. Harrisburg: State Printer, 1947.

"History of Jeannette: Industries of Jeannette," Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

"Jeannette Pa. 50th Anniversary Issue," Daily News-Dispatch, May 2, 1938.

ADDENDUM TO
JEANETTE CLASS COMPANY
(Jeanette Bottle Works)
Chambers Avenue extension on Bush Creek
Jeanette
Westmoreland County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-285

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